



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

and immaturity of a reckless generation rather than ingrained depravity.

DAVIS R. DEWEY.

Early Concert-Life in America (1731-1800). By O. G. SONNECK.
(Leipzig: Breitkopf and Härtel. 1907. Pp. 338.)

THE author of this work, Mr. O. G. Sonneck, is the leading authority upon early American music. His preceding researches into the subject of American operas, the first American composers (Lyon and Hopkinson), and early American secular music, have been most thorough and valuable. The present volume as well as the others mentioned are rather collections of historical data than actual musical history. Less attempt is made at telling a connected and readable story than at presenting all the facts bearing upon the case.

Mr. Sonneck seems prejudiced against the prominence given by some writers to Boston in the evolution of American music; after alluding to the earliest American concert, given in Boston in 1731, he says: "Though, therefore, Boston seems to have the right of precedence, I prefer to trace the earliest concerts given at Charleston, S. C., be it only to emphasize the fact that New England's share in the development of our early musical life has been unfairly and unduly overestimated to the disadvantage of the Middle Colonies and the South." This sentence shows our author less fair in drawing deductions than in unearthing records. His own excellent presentation of the musical events in Charleston proves the art-life in this direction to have been very intermittent and sporadic, while New England's music-work was almost continuous.

Nothing akin to the regular singing-schools of New England, or to the subsequent orchestral work of Boston, or to the foundation of permanent oratorio performances in the same city, can be found in the records of the other committees which are printed in this volume. In Charleston one finds tight-rope dancing, performances of magic, and other heterogeneous matters mingling with the music of the "consorts". Nothing of this kind disturbed the New England concerts, although sometimes, after the programme was ended, dancing was indulged in. Other facts may be culled from Mr. Sonneck's book to controvert his own opinion in this matter. Two very prominent musicians, Graupner and Van Hagen, after dwelling awhile in Charleston, left that city and settled in Boston. In an advertisement in the *Boston Evening Post* of June 17, 1771 (p. 18), we read the following:

CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA, April 11th, 1771.

The *St. Cecilia Society* give notice that they will engage with, and give suitable encouragement to musicians properly qualified to perform at their *Concert*, provided they apply on or before the first day of October next. The performers they are in want of are, a first and second violin, two hautboys and a bassoon, whom they are willing to agree with for one, two or three years.

The above facts tend to show that Boston was regarded as a prominent musical city in the last half of the eighteenth century. That the South had priority in the matter of founding a musical society seems established by our author.

When, however, one examines the record that Mr. Sonneck presents of musical activity in Philadelphia and New York, the rivalry to Boston becomes much more real. Here we find a collection of data of inestimable value. The minuteness with which our author has given programmes, advertisements, criticisms and other notices, may not make good consecutive reading but constitutes a book of reference that the American reader will duly appreciate. It is the material for history made ready to the hand of the future writer.

There are many cases of wandering from the subject, but these side excursions are often full of interest, as, for example, the history of conducting, given in the foot-note on pp. 71-72. The heavy character of the historical data is often lightened by side-lights upon the manners and customs of the times; musician's quarrels are amusingly recorded, and the account of the Boston musical scapegrace W. S. Morgan is as bright as a chapter in a novel. New historical matter about William Tuckey of New York, of Josiah Flagg and William Selby, of Boston, prove how microscopically Mr. Sonneck has gone over his material. The work is but another proof of his careful fidelity in research. All of his books deserve an honorable place in every American library.

A carefully prepared index closes the volume; the book, however, contains many misprints, which can easily be eliminated in future editions.

LOUIS C. ELSON.

The History of North America. Edited by FRANCIS NEWTON THORPE, Ph.D. Volume XX. *Island Possessions of the United States.* By ALBERT EDWARD MCKINLEY, Ph.D., Professor of American History in Temple College. (Philadelphia: George Barrie and Sons. 1907. Pp. xviii, 516.)

THIS, the twentieth and concluding volume of *The History of North America*, prepared by various writers under the editorial supervision of Professor Thorpe, is devoted, a little more than one-half to a history of the islands which for the most part have come to the United States in recent years, and the remainder to a general index in 220 pages to the whole series, an appendix giving a copy of the agreement of August 20, 1899, as to the sovereignty of the United States over the archipelago of Jolo, and a chronological table of important events. The volume also contains some excellent portraits of persons who have played a leading part in the events having to do with the establishment of the sovereignty of the United States over these islands, besides other illustrations more or less pertinent.